Association pleading for tax exemptions both on inputs and finished products;

(b) if so, whether government would consider slashing import duties on aroma material used in the industry; and

(c) whether government would also consider allotment of land on long lease to grow forest based raw material for agarbathi industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Government have considered a representation dated 15.2.1993 from this Association There is, at present, no Central Excise duty on the finished product, Agarbathi.

(b) The import duty on chemicals including aromatic chemicals used in the industry has been reduced from 110 per cent to 85 per cent in this year's Budget. 'Jigat', an input for the agarbathi industry attracts a concessional import duty of 40 per cent.

(c) No proposal has been received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for forest clearance for allotment of land on long lease to grow-forest based raw material for agarbathi industry.

Launching of SFAC

4010. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of the Small Farmers Agro-business Corporation mooted in the Finance Minister's budget speech last year;

(b) what are the policies and programmes envisaged in the Small Farmers Agro-business Corporation;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to the delay in launching Small Farmers Agro-business Corporation there is a loss in terms of potential employment nutrition and quality of life;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in launching Small Farmers Agro-business Corporation; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to launch SFAC and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (e) Planning Commission has done the preparatory work to set up the Small Farmers' Agro-Business Consortium (SFAC). A Steering Committee has been set up by them to work out an action plan and the details of the organisational structure including the Articles of Association of the Small Farmers' Agro-Business Consortium. The main purpose of SFAC is to achieve the twin objectives of the 8th Five Year Plan, namely, employment generation diversification of agriculture and agro-based industries to attain self-sufficiency in food production and generate surplus for exports. The SFAC shall have three tier structure namely, Advisory Council at Apex Level, Governing Board consisting of banks, Government Corporations, private industries, scientific community and farmers and users Associations at the second tier and a third tier consisting of State/Project Level Organisations comprising farmers/beneficiaries user organisations. SFAC is proposed to be set up as a society under the Societies Registration Act.

Cases against Jagatjit Industries Limited

4011. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the industrial houses are indulging in wilful evasion of various Government taxes, thus affecting adversely the revenue collection;

(b) if so, what is the number of cases under Income Tax, Customs and

Excise laws pending adjudication or otherwise against Jagatjit Industries Limited;

(c) what is the break-up of amounts involved case-wise;

(d) what are the details confirmed by the adjudicating authorities, case-wise; and

(e) what action Government are taking to realise the disputes amounts where Courts have granted stay orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): *Information relating to* Central Excise is as under:—

(a) Cases of alleged excise duty evasion have been booked against Industrial houses.

(b) and (c) No case is pending adjudication against M/s. Jagatjit Industries Ltd.

(d) and (e) One cases was registered in 1991. The duty involved in this case was Rs. 60,52,870/-. The duty evasion was confirmed in 1991 and a personal penalty of Rs. 4,02,000/- was imposed. The Central Excise duty has been realised. Recovery of the personal penalty has been stayed by CEGAT to whom a prayer is being made for vacation of the stay. Prosecution has also been launched against the assessee.

Information in respect of Customs and Income Tax is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Transfer policy in Central Board of Direct Taxes

4012. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major changes are being brought in the existing transfer policy, being followed by the Central Board of Direct Taxes relating to Class I officers;

(b) if so, what are the changes being made;

(c) what is the need for such changes;

(d) what is the number of officers at the level of Chief Commissioners, Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners affected by the new changes being made;

(e) what is the expenditure involved in implementing such changes; and

(f) whether the guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel regarding posting of husband and wife at the same station are being followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) With a view to streamlining the transfer policy in respect of Indian Revenue Service Offcers, a few changes have been made very recently. These mainly relate to restriction on the total stay of an officer in a particular region during his entire career, the cooling-off period for being posted to the same region, the transfer liability of officers when promoted from Group 'B' to Group 'A' posts and restriction regarding transfer from one region to another within the same State.

(d) and (e) Do not arise; as no transfers have so far been effected in terms of the new transfer policy.

(f) Yes, Sir.

Imposing anti-dumping duty on PVC

4013. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering imposition of anti-dumping duty on PVC to protect the domestic PVC industry; and

(b) if so, whether Government would also ensure that the local PVC makers are not emboldened to increase their prices unilaterally?